CLEAN COPY OF REPLACEMENT PARAGRAPH

IN THE SPECIFICATION:

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 26 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The object of the present invention is to provide a process for introducing an optical cable in which the outlay for the laying operation can be reduced, it also being intended that the outlay for the optical cable system used be coordinated with the laying method. The set object is achieved according to the invention, by a first process of the type explained in the introduction, in that the optical cable used is a microcable or minicable having an external diameter of the tube of 2.0 to 10 mm, preferably 3.5 to 5.5 mm, the tube being homogeneous and pressurized-water-tight, a laying channel with a width of 4.5 to 12 mm, preferably 7 mm, which is adapted to the diameter of the microcable or minicable, being introduced with the laying unit into the solid underlying laying surface, the microcable or minicable being introduced into the laying channel by means of a feed element and being held at a constant laying depth, the laying channel being filled with filling material using a filling device which is moved along after the insertion of the microcable or minicable.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 26, line 30 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--The problem with lifting the minicable or microcable (only the term microcable will be used from now on) is that the cable runs in a laying channel which is covered in a sealed and well-adhering manner with a filling material above the microcable. In this case, use is made of a filling material which has viscous and adhering properties, for example, bitumen. Accordingly, the microcable cannot be drawn out before the filling material is removed. Likewise, further, secondary cutting of the laying

channel is not an option since the filling material would only smear on account of its viscous consistency. The invention solves this problem, then, in that a tension-resistent release element is embedded above the microcable, which release element can be drawn out or pulled out if required and also removes the filling means in this operation. It is advantageous here if, from the outset, the microcable is not wetted with the filling means, so that, as far as possible, there is no adherence between the two. The tension-resistant release element may be designed as a separate element, for example in the form of a line, of a profile body or of a strip. Such release means may consist, for example, of plastic or of metal, for example of steel. However, it is also possible for special release means or plastic materials to be applied around the microcable, for example a plastic film of polyethylene, so that adherence between the microcable and the filling means occurs only negligibly, if at all. Furthermore, it is possible for this purpose that the laying channel be filled above the microcable with a release means which is designed as a filling profile and is pressed into the laying channel, if appropriate with additional sealing with respect to the borders of the laying channel. Once again, a viscous material such as bitumen is particularly suitable for this purpose. Particularly elastic materials, for example rubber or elastic plastics, are suitable for such a filling profile.--

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 33, line 16 with the following rewritten paragraph:

--It is thus expedient to arrange such a detector, as a functional unit for locating cables, in front of a joint-cutting machine, so that any metallic object, for example a cable or supply line, which is located in the ground, is detected in each case. For laying minicables or microcables, detection can take place via the metal tube itself, via a return conductor which is

carried along or else via cable holding-down devices in the laying channel. These cable holding-down devices may also be used, for example, for the power supply and for a protective function for locating the minicable or microcable. It would be possible for holding-down devices to have a fixedly predetermined code or else to be freely programmable. A service vehicle which is used to trace the laid cable is expediently made available for this process. This unit produces the reference for marking points, and stores the route in which the optical cable is laid, so that the route can be transferred onto existing street plans. In this way, both the position and the depth of the laid microcable can be established.--